

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alligator River/Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge  
P. O. Box 1969  
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Contact: Bonnie Strawser - 252-473-1131



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## News Release

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### Life got you down? Fall is decompression time on the Outer Banks

*Decompress: to release from pressure; to relax*

Sometimes the best way to put life in perspective is to leave it behind!

The Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival, a six-day celebration of the wild side of the Outer Banks region of North Carolina, is set for Nov. 4 through Nov. 9. Birding, natural history, decoy carving, photography, paddling and social events are just some of the events planned for the festival which spans Veteran's Day weekend.

Ever wondered what a duck hunt is like? Come experience the hunt of a lifetime on this trip. Participants learn about decoys and ducks and have the opportunity to sit in a blind on this simulated duck hunt in the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge photography blind. Decoys are placed, calls are used and the anticipation of ducks coming to the decoys will almost rival watching the sun come up! The only shooting on this 'duck hunt' is with cameras! The number of participants is limited to ensure a quality experience.

For those who want to make sure that their photos truly capture the experience, there are wildlife photography classes offered during the festival.

History-lovers will enjoy imagining a day in the life of Currituck Beach Lighthouse keepers of the U.S. Lifesaving Service in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Tour private quarters of the Victorian 1876 Keeper's House and other historic structures on the grounds. Learn about duties of keepers and their families in the isolated seaside outpost. Climb 214 steps to the top of the 1875 Currituck Beach Lighthouse for an exhilarating birds-eye view of the northern Outer Banks with close inspection to the operational first order Fresnel lens that can be seen 18 miles out to sea.

And for those who need something more physical to relieve the tension, the region offers some of the country's best paddling for canoe and kayak enthusiasts. From tannin-fed cypress swamps to endless marsh mazes, it is possible to paddle the region for a lifetime yet still study charts at night, discovering unexplored areas.

With almost 100 programs to choose from, there is literally something for everyone and the cost is affordable even on a modest budget!

This festival is traditionally set during the "shoulder season" when accommodation rates are lower, traffic is light and the weather is mild.

To learn more about the Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival call 252-441-8144 or go to [www.wingsoverwater.org](http://www.wingsoverwater.org).